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[54] **MOBILE TELEPHONE POWER KEY LOCK FUNCTION**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method of this invention is disclosed for operating a mobile phone (10) of a type having a power-on key and a plurality of other keys. The method includes the steps of: (a) defining at least one key to represent a secondary power-on key; (b) during a time that the mobile telephone is in an off-state, sensing that the power-on key has been activated; and (c) placing the mobile phone in a partially on-state. The method further includes the steps of: (d) determining, within a predetermined period of time, if the at least one secondary power-on key has been activated; and (e) if it is determined that the at least one secondary power-on key has not been activated within the predetermined period of time, the method restores the mobile phone to the off-state. In one embodiment of this invention the step of defining includes the sub-steps of: presenting a message to a user for prompting the user to depress a key; and in response to the user depressing a key, storing an identity of the depressed key as the secondary power-on key.

10 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets